

REMARKS

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Applicant's attorney wishes to express his appreciation to Examiner Rodney Lindsey for the constructive comments during the telephonic interview conducted June 27, 2004.

As suggested during the telephonic interview of June 27, 2004, claim 1 has been amended to recite a helmet shell composed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of poly-alpha-olefins, homopolymers of ethylene, copolymers of ethylene and other alpha-olefins, polyamides, polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, cellulose acetobutyrate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyoxymethylene polymers, polyester, and epoxy. The amendment to claim 1 has been made to emphasize the patentable distinctions of applicant's invention over the prior art. Such amendment incorporates into claim 1 the limitation of claim 2, which delineated a helmet shell composed of a polymeric material. Accordingly, claim 2 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification, e.g. at page 18, lines 15-20. Consequently, no new matter has been added.

It was also suggested during the June 27, 2004 telephonic interview that claim 9 be amended to recite an improved helmet system wherein the helmet shell is fabricated by injection molding a polymeric material into a molding cavity, the polymeric material being at least one material selected from the group consisting of poly-alpha-olefins, homopolymers of ethylene, copolymers of ethylene and other alpha-olefins, polyamides, polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, cellulose acetobutyrate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyoxymethylene polymers, polyester, and epoxy. Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to emphasize the patentable distinctions of applicant's invention over the prior